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selected, apparently, to substantiate his dialect hypotheses, not to show differences between scribes. Indeed, in the earlier discussion, wherein by the use of *io*, *to*, he seeks to establish that B was more faithful to his text than A, he omits, if I mistake not, the fact that A uses *io* five times, *to* three times. Neither is my list, although containing many more words, exhaustive, as I gathered it incidentally in the course of a more extended investigation. Further, as regards the leveling of *p* to *ð*, it is asserted that this has no significance, and reference is made to §199 ff. of SIEVERS' 'Old English Grammar.' SWEET agrees with SIEVERS. Nevertheless, it may be well to collect further data in view of the fact that it seems to be established, "that in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the two sounds of initial *th* were already in existence as they now are, and in the same words" (F. A. BLACKBURN in the *American Journal of Philology*, vol. iii, pp. 46 ff.).

I decline to accept "The Battle of Maldon" as evidence, since WÜLKER in his 'Grundriss' says concerning it (iii, §330), "1726 druckte Hearne das Bruchstück. Bald darauf (1731) ging die Handschrift beim Brande der Cottoniana zu grunde, so dass wir jetzt auf Hearne's Druck aufgewiesen sind." In such a matter as final *p* what confidence can be placed in a copy made in 1721 and, since the MS. was burned five years later, probably never collated with the original?

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PASSY'S 'LE FRANÇAIS PARLÉ.'

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In the March issue (vol. v, p. 93) of your journal you mention PAUL PASSY'S 'Le français parlé' in a way that calls for some remarks. No one is more convinced than I that the best teaching of French pronunciation must be based on phonetic treatment and that PAUL PASSY is perfectly right in his method and principle of notation. But he has taken his ideas of practical pronunciation from the speech that prevails on the Paris boulevards instead of from that of the mass of educated people. You will undoubtedly grant that a teacher of English pronunciation who should

instruct his pupils to pronounce 'ospital and 'air instead of 'hospital and 'hair,' because he has heard this in London, would be egregiously in the wrong. Still, *mutatis mutandis*, that is exactly what PAUL PASSY is guilty of. Then what shall we say of his notation *les=lé*, which is not only contrary to usage, contrary to the prescription of every treatise on pronunciation (including the last grammar of DA COSTA recently published for the schools of the city of Paris), but even classed as something characteristic of the pronunciation of Southern Frenchmen, whose peculiarities cannot be called good French. I am sorry to find fault with the practical part of a book that under different conditions might have rendered an invaluable service.

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TEXT-BOOKS FOR PREPARATORY SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—The new program setting forth the requirements in Modern Languages for admission to New England colleges will surely work a greatly needed improvement in the methods of teaching; the brief statement it contains will have all the power of an enactment in that direction.

The subordinate question of text-books for reading has been necessarily curtailed, yet was not left untouched. The framers of the program had many pertinent things to say on the subject. Their ideas, though not expressed for want of room, are too valuable to be lost for those whom it may concern. Here they are in a nut-shell:

Text-books for reading ought to have certain qualities: a.—They should be edited by persons who really know the languages in which the books are written; b.—Interesting, though short introductions relating to the books and the authors of them, are desirable; c.—The notes ought to be very carefully worked out, and be not only (1) explanatory, but also, (2) suggestive in every direction, (3) so framed as to quicken the powers of observation of the student, and (4) conducive to the right interpretation of the thoughts of the author.

This is an addendum to the program which,